GV430.P
C7pc.p

VOL 74 NO 1
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1974

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY
FEB 14 19
UNIVERSITY OF CALIF

Park Council News

EBMUD TO OPEN TRAILS

Hiking and riding enthusiasts will soon be enjoying new trails on watershed land, under rules and regulations adopted Jan. 8 by the EBMUD Board of Directors.

According to Lee Jorgensen, manager of the District's Land Division, the first segment to open will connect the new San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area with regional parks to the east and west. It is the beginning of Phase One of the District's Recreational Trails System, which will add 55 miles on East Bay trails in 1974. Phases Two and Three will bring the total to 93 miles.

"This first route will be known by three separate trail names," Jorgensen said. "Beginning at a staging area at the eastern end of Briones Reservoir, the Oursan Trail winds along the northern shore of the reservoir, over District fire trails. Then it swings down to the south end of San Pablo Reservoir where it becomes the Old San Pablo Trail--some of it runs along the old San Pablo Dam Road --skirting the west shore of the reservoir. The trail ends near San Pablo Dam, but a spur called the Eagle's Nest Trail climbs up to join trails in Tilden Park."

People interested in using trails on EBMUD watersheds will be able to pre-register for permits at a cost of $1.00 per year, or $2.00 for a three-year permit. Applications will be available at EBMUD business offices, and at District recreation areas at San Pablo and Lafayette Reservoirs. Organized groups are urged to call Land Division at EBMUD (835-3000) for a direct mailing of applications.

Permits will be issued subject to rules and regulations concerning sanitation to protect water quality, times of use--sunrise to sunset--preservation of wildlife and plant life, and fire safety. "They're all simple, common-sense rules," Jorgensen said, "aimed at keeping the land as it is--in its natural state." He continued "By early summer, we plan to open the new Miller Creek staging area near Chabot Reservoir north of Castro Valley. It will give access to some of the more spectacular view areas in our trails system. The Ramage Peak and Rocky Ridge Trails overlook a vast acreage of the Upper San Leandro Reservoir watershed. Near the north end of the Reservoir, close to Moraga, we'll have the new Valle Vista staging area, and beyond that the Redwood Trail, leading to Redwood Park. Once again, we're connecting two regional parks--Chabot and Redwood--by crossing Utility District watershed land. It looks just as it did 50 years ago. We hope to keep it that way."

The staging areas at trail heads will be about one acre in size, with parking, chemical toilets, and directional signs. A trail register will be established at each trail-head, for the safety of hikers.

LAFAYETTE AND MORAGA BOOST TRAILS

Acting in concert, the City of Lafayette and the Moraga Park and Recreation Authority are offering their estimated $150,000 share of the proposed $250,000,000 State Park Bond fund to EBRPD to create a 13 1/2 mile regional trails segment. The EBRPD Board approved the generous offer in concept, and Director Mary Jefferds, Berkeley, observed that "we would be abdicating our leadership if we did not enter into this regional project with enthusiasm." The money would be used for some land acquisition and maintaining, policing, and operating a five-point trail system radiating out from Lafayette and Moraga.

George J. Henrich, Jr. of the Moraga Park and Recreation Authority said a recent survey of recreational needs showed the trails system had "number one priority."

Upon completion of this project, people will be able to travel safely without autos to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness from points in Lafayette such as Olympic

Boulevard and Reliez Station Road, Stanley School and Burton School; and from points in Moraga such as Campolindo High, Rheem Shopping Center, Moraga Shopping Center and Joaquin Moraga School. Trails will include a paved bicycle path along the abandoned Sacramento Northern right-of-way, and a hiking-equestrian route from St. Mary's College, Moraga, to the parking lot at the north-east entrance of Las Trampas Park.

ENERGY SPECIALIST TO SPEAK

Today the energy crisis is the dominant topic of conversation; everywhere, people have strong feelings and definite opinions. A whole new vocabulary is building up around one word: energy. With so much rhetoric on the subject in the newspapers, television, and radio, can we possibly absorb any more expertise? The answer is a resounding "yes" when the speaker is Dr. Barney Rubin, the founding member of the Energy Research Group at the

---

PARK COUNCIL PROGRAM MEETING

SPEAKER: Dr. Barney Rubin, Senior Scientist, Lawrence Livermore Lab

TOPIC: Energy, Resources, and the Environment: is Co-existence Possible?

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 1974

TIME: 8 P.M.

PLACE: Contra Costa Water District Building, 2700 Concord Ave., Concord

---

Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Dr. Rubin is no newcomer to the study of energy resources. In connection with the Plowshare Program at the Laboratory, Dr. Rubin and a staff of outstanding senior scientists began investigations back in 1970 on the nation's energy resources, the outlook for the future, and the conse quences of extraction and use. As a result of this three-year head start on the rest of the nation, the Livermore study quite possibly ranks as the most authoritative in the country.

Dr. Rubin will discuss the conflicts which have arisen because of desires for unlimited use of energy, low cost, and a clean environment. Some of these conflicting desires must now be re-examined. Of particular concern to conservationists will be the hard-won reforms in environmental legislation of the past few years.

BIKES ON BART

"Current policy prohibits regular bicycles" on Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BARTD) trains but collapsible bikes--BARTD officials said there are 10-speed models available--are in the approved category. That was one of the highlights of testimony given by Ward Belding, Senior Economic Analyst for BARTD, who participated in an explanation to EBRPD of a 70-page three-county study of potential recreational and commuter trail links to Rapid Transit District lines.

"You have done a wonderful job on this," EBRPD Director John Leavitt, Alameda, observed, "but one of the most significant contributions you could make would be to provide for the carrying of bicycles on your trains. How does BARTD plan to accomodate bicycles and their owners?"

"Current policy prohibits regular bicycles on our trains but allows passengers to carry collapsible bikes aboard," Belding replied. "There are increasing opportunities for bicyclists everywhere, but we must consider the concerns and safety of our other riders also."

Apparently ruffled by the reply, Leavitt retorted: "You aren't planning to accomodate the average bicyclist? You are going to require them to buy some other kind of bike?" He added: "I think some seats could be pulled out to make room for some bikes. I hope some efforts are made along that line."

"If I had a collapsible or folding bike now I could ride on your trains?" Dr. Howard Cogswell, Hayward, President of the EBRPD asked. Yes, he was told.

BIKING TO AND FROM BART

The preliminary one-year, three-county study recommends an elaborate 1590 mile trails network. The $50,000 "tentative" study, labeled "for discussion purposes only" was financed 20 percent by EBRPD and 80 percent by a U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) grant obtained through BARTD.

BARTD officials said last-minute revisions are being made now and the final report should be coming from the printers by the end of the month.

EBRPD Directors listened to a presentation summarizing the report but took no action at this time.

Bicycling, hiking, and horseback trails are discussed but the emphasis is on bicycling. Official title of the bulky study is "BART/TRAILS--A study of the Commuter and Recreational Trail Potential to the Bay Area Rapid Transit." Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco Counties are covered.

"It is, perhaps, one of the ironies of our time," the study observes, "that as we 'progress' into the last quater of this century we seek and find ways to return to the use of old-fashioned non-automotive modes of transportation... This very study is an indicator of this trend."

Statistics in the study show an estimated 25,000 horses in the EBRPD area, which would have 600 miles of riding/hiking trails. The "schematic bicycle plan" calls for 450 miles of bike trail in Alameda County and 400 in Contra Costa county.

COGSWELL BECOMES EBRPD PREXY

Dr. Howard L. Cogswell, Hayward, is President of EBRPD for 1974. Cogswell, first elected to the board of the District in 1970, was selected unanimously along

with a slate including John Leavitt, Alameda, vice president; Miss Mary Jefferds, Berkeley, secretary; and Clyde Woodridge, Oakland, treasurer.

Selection of a 1974 slate of officers for the seven-member board was not accomplished without dissension as Director Paul J. Badger, Pinole, a nine-year member of the board, declined to be "a three-year treasurer." First, Dr. Cogswell announced that the nominating committee composed of Director Fred C. Blumberg, Lafayette, and Leavitt, had proposed a slate with Cogswell as president, Leavitt as vice president, Miss Jefferds as secretary, and Badger as treasurer.

Miss Jefferds moved to amend the slate by placing Badger in the vice president's slot, saying that she intended no reflection either on Leavitt, or the nominating committee, but that her colleague from Pinole, having "served long and well," should be considered for the second spot.

"It's disturbing to find myself in this position," said Badger, "I appreciate the suggestion that after nine years I be allowed to be something besides a three-year treasurer, but it could bring about a 3-3 vote and split the Board. I'd prefer just to be a kind of roving board member."

"Does this mean you're withdrawing your name from nomination for treasurer?" asked Cogswell.

"Yes," replied Badger, "It will clear the air. Apparently there are some who believe I would rock the boat again."

Miss Jefferds' motion having failed for lack of a second, Leavitt moved that Woolridge be added to the slate in the treasurer's post. The slate was approved unanimously.

"I'm a little bit upset," said the Director from Pinole, "that after nine years on the board some board members took it upon themselves to decide I wasn't good for the District." He added: "I may be in the minority, but I always felt we were all working for the good of the District."

PARK TAX TO BE LEVIED

Their new five-cent property tax ordinance having sailed unchallenged through a 30-day referendum period, EBRPD Directors adopted a resolution of intent to apply the levy in "connection with the full implementation of the District's Master Plan." The tax, to become effective July 1, raises the two-county special purpose district's tax rate to 20 cents and will provide some of the funding for a 10-year acquisition program for 40 parkland sites. Richard C. Trudeau, EBRPD General Manager, declared that the five cents per $100 of assessed valuation would cost the average homeowner about $3.50 per year.

There has been a general consensus among EBRPD officials and consultants that, to beat inflationary costs and acquire desirable lands before they become subdivisions, an accelerated land acquisition program must be undertaken through borrowing against anticipated tax revenues. EBRPD is empowered to borrow for capital acquisitions an amount equal to anticipated tax income for a two-year period. After July 1 of this year, that would amount to approximately $22,158,000.

BAY FILL PLANS UPSET

Due to apparent unwillingness on the part of BCDC to allow EBRPD to fill eight bay acres for the George Miller Jr. Memorial Shoreline the plans may have to be altered. One new possibility is to move the Santa Fe tracks a distance eastward to permit development of the park without the necessity of filling the bay.

Original plans for the park, prepared by Arbegast and Newton of Berkeley, called for three gently curving rip-rapped spits or fingers reaching into the bay with two sandy beaches intervening. The man-made spits or jetties were planned to jut about 300 feet into the water. Mounded picnic and sunbathing areas were planned.

LATEST ON MORGAN TERRITORY

Manny Lindner

On the front page of the magazine section of the Sunday S. F. Chronicle some months ago appeared a puzzling picture which looked at first glance like a sluggish lizard glowering balefully out of a droopy eye; but one look at the caption revealed the "lizard" to be a skylab satellite photograph of the Greater Bay Area. Appropriately, the "eye' turned out to be the Mt. Diablo massif, the "iris" being Mt. Diablo itself. The lower eyelid was the range known as the Black Hills, while the rear part of the upper eyelid could be recognized from Geological Survey maps as Morgan Territory.

In spite of its location near the geographic center of Contra Costa, rugged topography has caused Morgan Territory to remain to this day the most remote part of the County. Except for Mt. Diablo itself, it is the loftiest region in the County. Approached from the South, a narrow road rises abruptly for more than 1100 feet through grassy foothills of Southern Contra Costa. From the town of Clayton to the Northwest, the ascent is more gradual but traverses miles of heavily-wooded slopes.

About a year ago, a heated controversy centered around a proposed huge development at the North end of Morgan Territory. The proposal was ultimately rejected by the Supervisors, but not before the Planning Commission had given the proposal an on-again-off-again nod of approval. Clearly, the jolt to conservationists was sufficient to drive home the lesson that no land, no matter how far removed from the mainstream of services, was immune from the threat of serious development.

What is at stake in Morgan Territory? Generally, the area is blessed by approximately 20 inches of rainfall per year. The highlands are a mixture of meadows and oak woodlands more reminiscent of England- or perhaps New England- than of the San Francisco Bay Area. In

winter these meadows are green, but in spring they become transformed into a massive yellow carpet of wildflowers. To the east the land drops off toward the San Joaquin Valley, affording (on a clear day) spectacular views of the Sierra, the Sutter Buttes in the Sacramento Valley, and Mt. Lassen. There are cliffs and escarpments that nourish seasonal cascades and waterfalls, the roar of which reminds one of nothing less than high mountains in summer. There are no conifers, but enormous oaks along the rapids of upper Marsh Creek seem to provide just the right conditions for a whole host of flowers berries, and fungi that would do justice to the cover of any of the better-known national conservation magazines. The area provides something for every taste: level meadows for the strollers, a steep valley and sheer cliffs for the daring, spectacular views, and the imposing bulk of Mt. Diablo as a backdrop for the inspired photographer.

In the months and years to come, EBRPD will implement its new Master Plan. If, in these plans, wholly new parks are to be established, surely there could be no finer or more magnificent site than Morgan Territory. It could well become the new park that has something for everyone.

From time to time, the Newsletter will run articles concerning progress on, and proposed hikes into, this area. We suggest you watch for them and join us.

EBMUD CALLS FOR CONSERVATION

Conserve energy by using less water. That may not sound very logical at first, since water isn't used as a fuel. But EBMUD has made that suggestion to its customers, pointing out that 40 percent of the water used by its customers has to be pumped at least once. And pumping requires electricity or natural gas, which are expected to be in short supply this winter. To add to the problem, most of the water used in the home goes into the sewer; and all sewage treated by EBMUD is pumped at least once, making additional demands on diminishing power supplies.

HIKING NEWS - FOR THE VIBRAM SOLE SET

It was with great regret that your hiking chairman cancelled the Frank's Tract trip of mid January because of high water and high winds that drowned the high hopes for the day. My greatest apologies go to those of you whom I could not reach by telephone and who made the trip to the Jersey Island Ferry Slip only to find water, water everywhere and nary a leader in sight.

Your hiking chairman has better hindsight than foresight - or maybe just a positive talent for picking rainy weekends that lie between two sunny weekends! We should like to be able to reschedule every cancelled trip as soon as possible, but the realities of organization and time do not lend themselves to this ideal state of affairs. Many times we shall have to use the old advertising slogan "This one is gone - but we have MORE!!"

And MORE we do have - lots more. Following this article is a list of hikes planned to June. Read it and mark your calendars for the ones you want. In each bulletin, this column will write up in greater detail the upcoming hikes for that period. Please note whether reservations are necessary, and always leave your telephone number when you make a reservation, so that you can be advised if there is a cancellation.

On unreserved hikes the cancellation policy is as follows: heavy rain the morning of the hike or heavy rain expected before noon will automatically cancel the hike. In questionable cases, the leader will make the decision at the trail head. Some leaders are mudders and some are dry track stars; so there will be variations in decisions!

Let's talk about energy. The energy you use on hikes is good for you and Our Situation! We're talking about getting to the hikes. All of us want to conserve fuel whenever possible. Car-pooling conserves fuel and also conserves space, both on highways and in parking areas. On as many hikes as possible, you will see listed a meeting place or places from which we shall car pool to the final destination. Please observe this rule, as many of our hikes are on private lands with meager facilities for parking. Even many public areas do not have large parklots. So, if you now feel self-righteous about hiking near home instead of at the seashore or in the mountains, feel doubly self-righteous and take friends to a hike. You can even take them to lunch on a hike.

Saturday, February 16, is scheduled for a hike through Bolinas Canyon and over Rocky Ridge. See the calendar.

On Saturday, March 2, Bob and Sue Watson will lead a hike through the beautiful Wiedemann ranch along the Contra Costa-Alameda Counties line. On this eight-mile hike on private land, we shall climb 1000 feet from the homestead house, built in 1860, to 1800-foot Wiedemann Peak. Then we shall go to Harlan Hill and Black Canyon, and traverse the hills above the San Ramon Valley, returning to the farmhouse about 3 p.m. Spectacular views, rich bird life, and interesting geology are features on this moderate hike. Bring lunch and liquids, wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared (if the weather is THAT way) for mud in the hollows and wind on the high ridges.

Meet at 9:30 at the intersection of Crow Canyon and Twin Creeks Drive, San Ramon. Take I-680 to the Crow Canyon off-ramp; drive a few hundred yards past San Ramon Boulevard stoplight to Twin Creeks Drive, which is opposite Handy Pantry Market and the Shell Station. An unreserved hike.

The Park Council is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wiedemann, who have graciously opened their property to us on that day for hiking.

March 16, Saturday, George Cardinet, a great horseman who does great things for hikers, too, will lead a hike to the waterfalls of Wild Oat Canyon at Mr. Diablo. We shall go from the Hetherington Property, newly acquired by the State, through Donner Canyon to Wild Oat

Canyon to see these beautiful cataracts that flow only during the winter and early spring. It's a fairly steep climb but a good trail, and many wildflowers will be coming out. So, come out for this 6 mile first-of-spring hike. Lunch, liquids, good walking shoes.

Meet at the Pioneer Inn, Clayton, at 9:30 for carpooling only to the Hetherington Property. Unreserved.

DEDICATED VS. UNDEDICATED PARKS RESOLVED

Concerns over the status of lands held by EBRPD surfaced during discussion by EBRPD Directors on a formal policy distinguishing between dedicated and undedicated District lands. Adoption of the policy rectified a 40-year-old omission, but aroused questions as to the status of Brooks Island, off the Richmond Inner Harbor.

"The distinction," Richard C. Trudeau, EBRPD General Manager, explained, "will be necessary in the immediate future since those lands not dedicated and appropriated to recreational purposes can be disposed of by action of the Board of Directors without recourse either to a vote of the citizens of the District or a vote of the State Legislature.

Dedicated lands, the resolution states, are those "formally dedicated for park purposes by resolution of this Board." Such lands may not be disposed of except as provided in Section 5540 of the State Public Resources Code, which states that such disposal must be approved by a vote of the citizens of the District or the legislature.

Undedicated lands, the resolution adds, are those not formally dedicated and "shall be considered to be held in a 'land bank.'

Trudeau stated that "undedicated land may be used on a limited basis for park purposes but any such shall not in any way constitute an express or implied dedication of such lands for park purposes."

Director Paul J. Badger, Pinole, questioned the policy, suggesting that a stipulation be included to the effect that lands would not be held undedicated beyond a certain length of time. "The board could be exposed to criticism for banking land for bartering purposes while not opening it to public use," he said.

Hulet Hornbeck, EBRPD Chief of Land and Water Acquisition and Management, replied, "I don't want to delay the use of park lands, but in acquiring lands you find that some are not in good shape for a park and that occasionally you encounter problems of severance which force you to acquire parcels which we will want to get rid of. We'd be very careful, and handle this on a parcel by parcel basis."

Trudeau interjected, "For example, an acquisition may include a logical park boundary, such as a ridge top, yet the owner may insist on selling the entire parcel. It would be easier in such a case to acquire the whole area and to dispose of the unwanted acreage later than to go through protracted litigation and face possible severance damages."

NEJEDLY INTRODUCES AIR POLLUTION BILL

Senator John A. Nedjedly (R-Walnut Creek) introduced SB 1543 on Jan. 15 to provide guidelines for local government and planning agencies to meet federal air pollution standards.

"It is vital that clearly defined procedures be set up ending the obvious confusion that has arisen because California has not as yet set standards required by the Environmental Protection Agency," stated Senator Nejedly.

"SB 1543 presents an air quality planning process which will have a positive effect on the local planning process without disrupting it, will complement the present regulatory air pollution control programs, will utilize existing governmental agencies, and will provide a framework for accommodating future growth," Nejedly stated.

"It has become evident that existing air pollution control programs based on control of emissions are insufficient to maintain air quality on a long-range basis. Air resource management and land use and transportation planning are intimately related and this interrelationship needs to be recognized and directed by appropriate legislation."

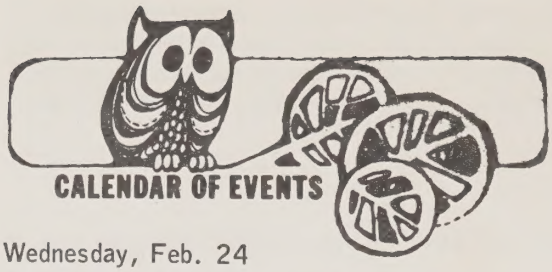
PARK NEWS IN BRIEF

- William F. Jardin, San Leandro telephone company executive and member of the city's Recreation and park Commission, has been elected a member of the EBRPD Board. He succeeds Marlin W. Haley, Hayward, who resigned, effective January 1, for reasons of health.

- Moving to choke off lawlessness in the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve where two machine guns may have been fired and a visitor was wounded by shotgun fire, the District is assigning a full-time Ranger to the area.

- The District marks its 40th birthday this year---its ruby anniversary---having grown in the interim from three parks totaling 2340 acres to 29 parks totaling nearly 30,000 acres. An estimated 6,000,000 user days were logged in the Alameda and Contra Costa county parks last year; EBRPD's administrative boundaries encompass 955 square miles.

- A $100 option on 65 acres of land south of Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, on the outskirts of Pleasanton, was approved. If the District eventually exercises the option and acquires the property, the acreage of the water-oriented park would increase to 207.



Wednesday, Feb. 24
Copy deadline for March newsletter

Tuesday, Feb. 26 Park Council Program meeting. Dr. Barney Rubin will speak on Energy, Resources and Environment. Contra Costa Water District Building, 2700 Concord Ave., Concord, 8 p.m.

HIKING CALENDAR THROUGH SPRING

Saturday, Feb. 16 Bolinas Canyon, Rocky Ridge. Ron Mueller, leader. Meet 9:30 Bollinger Canyon Parking lot, Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Park, Lunch, liquids.

Saturday, Mar. 2 Wiedemann Property, San Ramon. Bob and Sue Watson, leaders. Meet 9:30 Crow Canyon Road and Twin Creeks Drive, immediately off I680. Lunch, liquids.

Saturday, Mar. 16 Waterfalls of Mt. Diablo. George Cardinet, leader. Meet 9:30 at the Pioneer Inn, Clayton. Lunch, liquids.

Saturday, Mar. 24 Sierra Club: Del Valle Regional Park. Gen and Bill Sattler, leaders. Meet 8 a.m. BART Station, Walnut Creek, for car-pooling. For details, call the Sattlers at 685-5315.

Saturday, Mar. 30 Sierra Club: Coalmines Regional Park. Nature walk with John Bryant, naturalist.

Saturday, Apr. 6 Mt. Diablo Area (to be announced).

Saturday, Apr. 20 Sierra Club: Annadel Farms, Sonoma County. Gen and Bill Sattler, leaders. Meet 7 a.m. at White Front, Pleasant Hill, for car-pooling. For details, call the Sattlers at 685-5315.

Sunday, Apr. 21 Morgan Territory, wildflowers. Manny Lindner, leader. Meet 10 a.m. at the Pionner Inn, Clayton or at Alpha Beta, Danville, for car pooling only. Lunch and liquids.

Saturday, Apr. 27 Sierra Club: Las Trampas to Chabot. Don de Fremery leader. RESERVATIONS. Call Don at 254-5243.

Saturday, May 4 (To be announced)

Saturday, May 11 Brookwood (details later).

Saturday, May 18 Sierra Club: Las Trampas to Redwood. Don de Fremery leader. RESERVATIONS. Call Don at 254-5243.

Saturday, June 1 (To be announced)

Sunday, June 16 Sierra Club: Briones Reservoir Loop. Don de Fremery leader. RESERVATIONS. Call Don at 254-5243.

Park Council News is published ten times a year by the Contra Costa Park Council at Walnut Creek, California (President: Manfred Lindner, Danville, 837-4444). Design and production by Patrick Whittle Associates, Walnut Creek (933-2295).

Editor: Patrick Whittle. Art Director: James W. Johnson. Associate Editor: Raydean Randlett. Editorial Assistant: Brian Murphy.

Contra Costa Park Council
P. O. Box 4322
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Permit No. 231

Mr. Eugene C. Lee
3805 Palo Alto Dr.
Lafayette, CA 94549

GV430.5
C7Pc.P

VOL 74 NO 2 MARCH 1974

Park Council News

MEMORIAL TO JOHN BRYANT

Joann Johnson

Thoreau wrote: "Even the death of a friend will inspire us as much as their lives. Their memories will be encrusted over with subline pleasing thoughts as their monuments are overgrown with moss."

We who love the natural world that surrounds us with a million gifts have lost a friend with the passing of John Bryant on February 21, 1974. He lived in Pittsburg, California, and served its schools for 28 years.

John Bryant, like the coulter pines at Nortonville that he fought to save, had many branches and gave unselfishly of his time in numerous supportive roles.

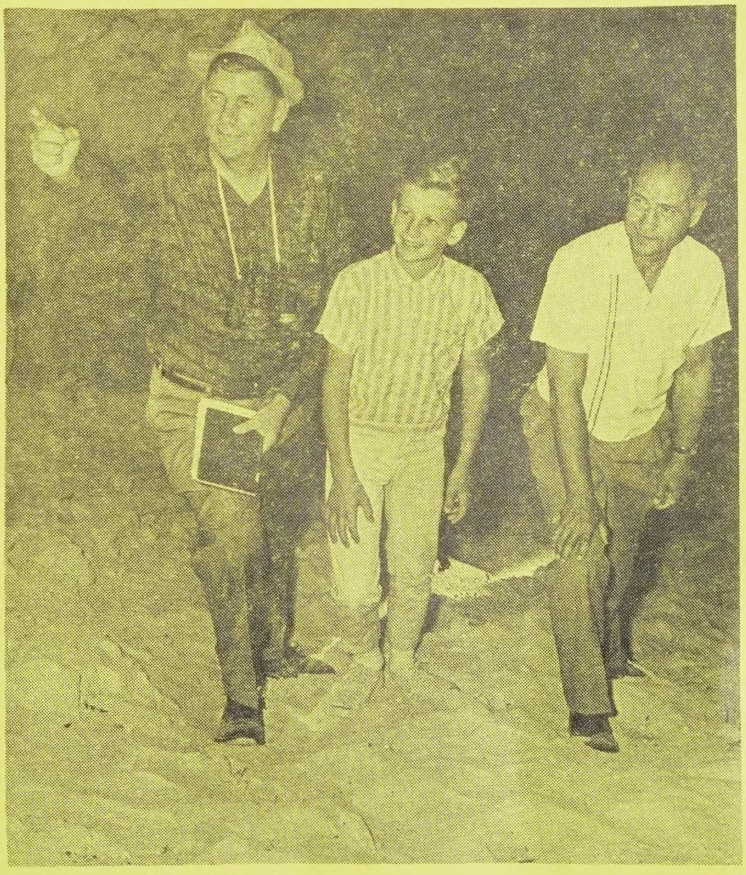
His efforts to have the coal mines area preserved as a regional park have been an inspiration to others. His creation of a botanical garden at Heights Elementary School opened doors to a world of plants and other living things for the children. This was his gift to the children he loved. He was their principal, but most of all their friend.

John Bryant served as a director of the Contra Costa Park Council for several years and was an interim member on the EBRPD Board, assisting with the annexation of Contra Costa County to the district in 1964. He also was a member of the California Native Plants Society, serving as education committee chairman.

A trail and a grove of the rare coulter pines in the new Black Diamond Mines Regional Park will bear his name, according to a recent proposal by the directors of the Park Council District.

For those of us who had the opportunity to know and work with John Bryant our lives have been enriched by his presence and will continue to be so, as we walk the trails he loved.

A memorial fund has been established through the Wells Fargo Bank in Pittsburg towards the completion of the Botanic Garden now named for John Bryant. Contributions can be sent to the John Bryant Botanic Garden Memorial Trust Fund in care of the Wells Fargo Bank in Pittsburg.



In this 1964 picture, John Bryant (left) takes his young son and Al Burton on a tour of the coal mines.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: PEOPLE OR ANIMALS?

Raydean Randlett

I have been astounded lately by certain comments concerning conservationists. The uneducated remarks by educated people suggest that somehow conservationists hold birds, animals and open space more valuable than people.

I trust that the following information will explain that conservationists do not value a tree, bird or mountain lion above people, but rather that they comprehend the powerful relationship between man and nature. The earth existed for millions of years without man and may continue for millions more after his departure. But man does not exist -- so far as we know -- without air, water, land, plants and animals. It is vital that everyone begin to understand the importance of the web of life.

In nature, plants serve as food for animals, animals serve as a food supply for other animals, insects and rodents till the soil, vultures, scavenger beetles, and blow flies provide community sanitation, predators and disease agents prevent overpopulation, and every other plant and animal fills a niche of its own. This community organization in nature has variously been called the chain or web of life, the balance of nature, or a biological complex.

The numbers of animals of various kinds that can be supported under natural circumstances in a given area are determined by all of the interrelationships within the biological complex. Biologists call this the pyramid of numbers. This means that it may take tremendous numbers of planteating insects to feed a shrew, large numbers of shrews to support a small carnivore such as a weasel, but fewer weasels to support a Great Horned Owl at the top of this food chain. Nature supports this arrangement by supplying a high biotic potential, or capacity to reproduce, to the animals or plants at the bottom of the pyramid and a low biotic potential to those at the top. Another example would be that millions of seeds, berries, and insects are needed to support approximately 100,000 mice on eighteen square miles of land. Only 72 foxes and one eagle would survive on the same land.

In Contra Costa County suburban sprawl and unregulated use of poisons threatens virtually all wildlife. While there are a few exceptions such as the opossum, an introduced species which seems to thrive living under houses, many indigenous anumals are losing the battle against man.

Consider a few examples of wildlife indirectly important to man.

The mountain lion or cougar is still sighted in our county. It is believed that one or two live in Las Trampas Regional Park, where they are comparatively safe. If a man builds a house near the park and the mountain lion drinks from his swimming pool, chances are the lion will be pursued and shot, even though the mountain lions are now protected by law. Actually the presence of these big cats is no cause for alarm, for there have been very few authenticated cases of one attacking a human. Shy and rarely observed, the lions may be found wherever there are deer. They are not necessarily dangerous to the deer population as a whole, for the deer they kill are frequently diseased or crippled. The mountain lion feeds also on smaller mammals.

The fact that many people are ignorant about the importance such an animal plays in nature's balance was demonstrated recently. Gary Bogue, curator of Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum, acquired a mountain lion from the zoo because it had no tail and therefore no value to a zoo. Gary worked with the animal, training it to hunt so that it could be released. Gary found it to be one of the most intelligent animals he had known. Just before it was ready for the wild, someone poisoned it. Deer have already begun to be a problem because their natural predator has been substantially wiped out. Development has forced so many deer onto Mount Diablo that the park management may have to consider ways to control the number of these animals.

Another important predator, the gray fox, should be common in Contra Costa, but the fox has been much maligned because of its occasional preying on game birds and poultry. The number of harmful rodents destroyed by foxes each year is beneficial, particularly in agricultural areas; yet man has been the foxes' enemy instead of friend. Besides rodents, the fox feeds on rabbits, fruits, and insects.

The badger plays a vital role in controlling ground squirrels, other rodents, and reptiles. Man, in his wisdon, destroys the badger and then spends $100,000 per year in this county in an effort to destroy ground squirrels. In his search for burrowing rodents, the badger leaves an unmistakable trail of potholes and piled earth. Farmers complain that cattle break their legs in the potholes; therefore, badgers must go and farmers must resort to more dangerous means of rodent control.

The weasel is the only carnivore small enough to follow rats and mice into their burrows, and he hunts them either by day or night. Weasels are often destroyed as poultry killers, but studies have shown that this reputation is largely undeserved. More than 90 percent of their diet consists of rodents. One cannot help but wonder why man is so slow in recognizing the many benefits that nature has provided. Weasels have a very high metabolism requiring them to eat many mice and rats. Man has affected the weasel through the proliferation of housecats.

The reason for much poisoning in this county is the California ground squirrel. Unfortunately the poisoning affects the mouse who eats it, and the snake who eats the mouse, or the owl or any number of species higher on the food chain. The ground squirrel heads the list of agricultural pests in our state because it destroys sprouting and ripening grain, digs holes in irrigation ditches, and may carry several diseases. It eats seeds, fruit, acorns, roots, greens, and meat. This squirrel is very alert, and often cannot be trapped or poisoned because it remains underground for long periods of time.

Other pests such as gophers, which eat roots, bulbs, tubers, green stalks, and grain, would not be such a problem today if man had not eliminated their natural predators: coyotes, foxes, bobcats, owls, weasels, and gopher snakes.

Reptiles, like most animals, are beset by many dangers, but the fact that there are many thousands of species living today is proof that as a group they have been successful in coping with problems of survivial for thousands of years. However, the explosive growth of the human population brings changes to which it is impossible for many species of plants and animals to make satisfactory adjustment.

If one could find a creature which ate ants, wasps, bees, beetles, grasshoppers, flies, caterpillars, and other insects, one would have a great pest controller. The coast horned lizard fills this important niche. It ranges from near sea level (Antioch) to over 3,000 feet (Mount Diablo). The natural habitat is grassland, brushland, or woodland. This ugly reptile is truly useful.

The striped racer has the dubious distinction of being "officially endangered", but Gary Bogue believes that all snakes are endangered in our county because of flood control, poisoning, and sometimes even the whim of human beings. The racer is one of the prettiets of snakes and is therefore in demand by pet stores.

Many snakes such as the gopher snake are beneficial because they eat undesirable rodents. Their food includes mice, rats, gophers, ground squrrels, rabbits, occasionally birds and their eggs, and lizards.

Other helpful indigenous snakes include the commom garter snake, the night snake, the sharp-tailed snake, and the western ringneck snake.

The western rattlesnake is the only snake in the county which is dangerous to man. Fortunately, it is present in sufficient numbers to cause concern only in a few localities, and then only for a few months of the year.

If development continues we can expect the demise of this important group of rodent controllers; and, of course, an increasing rodent problem.

Along with the rodent problem one can expect serious insect infestations when the insectivores have been eliminated. Insects, the most successful form of life on earth, have demonstrated the ability to survive even in our paved-over cities. They have adapted in such a way that our own "best" poisons will not kill them. The mole is a good example of a useful insectivore that we are destroying. Moles do not destroy plants, as do gophers.

One could predict that insect infestations will gring the use of more poisons sprayed on our food. The FDA will continue to raise the acceptable standard to more parts per million allowable for human consumption. Insects will continue to adapt and thrive, while man will be the ultimate victim of his own poisoning.

Speaking for myself, I do not value open space simply because it refreshes my spirit. I love people, houses, and children above any eagle, coyote, or tree. But nature has tried to show us that everything must have its place on earth.

Note: Your comments and/or rebuttal are welcome and may be sent to: Raydean Randlett, 645 Morninghome Road, Danville, Calif. 94526

KNOWLAND TO BE HONORED

EBRPD will establish a redwood grove in one of its parks to honor the memory of the late William F. Knowland, Oakland newspaper publisher and former U. S. Senator. Knowland, a member of the Citizens' Task Force of 83, was described as a "devoted and effective conservation and park leader."

FOR THE VIBRAM SOLE SET

Susan Watson, Chairperson, Hiking Committee (254-4077)

Look! What is that springing out of the mud? A lotus? A patch of poppies? No! It is your intrepid hiking chairman, who just went down for the third time. But - like a Phoenix from the ashes - she is coming up - mud-splattered and rain-sotted - but cheerily looking forward to new hikes.

There has been a rumor that people are passing the hat to collect enough for a subscription to Harry Geise or to the Farmers' Almanac to give to your chairman. There is even more ominous talk of sacrificing her at high noon at the Spring Equinox. But your fearless chairman is not yet ready to turn in her eviable collection of Dr. Scholl's moleskins. Just because the East County caves hike was cancelled on account of the heaviest of Fall storms and the Delta was awash with the highest floods in years and the Wiedemann property hike was cancelled because of cloudbursts, hail, snow, high winds, and hip-deep mud (how did I know that March would come in not only like a lion but like a Tyrannosaurus rex?) - there is no reason to lose faith in your hiking chairperson's planning ability. What was that crashing noise I just heard?

Our hike in Bolinas Canyon in mid-February not only was well-attended (there were over 40 people) and competently led (our thanks go to talented Ron Mueller), but was also a beautiful introduction to early spring in this handsome area of Rocky Ridge near Las Trampas Wilderness Park. Indeed, it is being considered for addition to the Park, and we could give no higher recommendation than was given by nearly half a hundred hearty hikers who exclaimed again and again over this varied and beautiful area.

We saw the usual early wildflowers - Houndstongue, Milkmaids, Zygadene lily, Indian Warrior; and two sharp-eyed ladies spotted a very early cerise trillium, for which Las Trampas is famous. There were many comments over the huge chain fern, the largest of the ferns of the Bay Area, which grow in abundance in the all-year running Bolinas Creek. We saw a quiet grassy flat with a few ancient fruit trees - the remains of an old homestead. Who was the family and what happened to them?

We have been able to reschedule the Wiedemann Property hike for Sunday, March 31st. Join us at Twin Creeks Drive and Crow Canyon Road (immediately off I-680) at 10 o'clock for this 8 mile hike. Bring lunch, liquids, and a good luck charm.

Sunday, March 24, Sierra Club Regional Group. Del Valle Regional Park. Gen and Bill Sattler will lead a leisurely hike on the left-hand side of the lake to see the carpets of wildflowers for which the area is justly famous. Meet at 8 AM at the Walnut Creek BART station for carpooling. Bring lunch, liquids, camera, and fieldglasses. All day outing.

Saturday, March 30, Sierra Club Regional Group, Coalmines Regional Park. Walter Knight, naturalist, leader. Meet at the intersection of Buchanan Road and Somersville Road at 9 AM, or carpool to that point from the Walnut Creek BART Station at 8:30 AM. This annual spring wildflower hike for the Regional Group was to be led by John Bryant, whose untimely death leaves us all with great sadness.

Sunday, March 31st, rescheduling of Wiedemann property hike. Meet 10 AM at intersection of Twin Creeks Drive and Crow Canyon Road immediately off Interstate 680, or carpool from the Walnut Creek BART station at 9:30 AM.

Saturday, April 6th. April is Save the mountain month. Join us in an "overview" of the situation led by Gary Bogue, curator of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. There will be a leisurely walk of about 5 miles around the top of the mountain. Gary will point out areas of natural history important to the integrity of the mountain. Meet at the lower parking lot at the top of the mountain at 9 AM or carpool from the Walnut Creek BART station at 8:30 AM. End at Juniper Campground about 1 PM with carshuttle back to lower parking lot. Bring lunch, liquids. There is a charge to enter the State Park.

Sunday, April 7, trail maintenance with Don de Fremery. Call Don at 254-5243 for information. Remember that many of our trails are built and maintained by private work parties. Our hiking enjoyment depends to a large extent upon our own efforts. Help when you can!

Saturday, May 4th, rescheduling of Franks Tract, Delta Region. Jane Helrich, leader. Meet 8:45 AM at the Jersey Island Ferry slip - the ferry must leave at 9 AM to take advantage of a favorable tide. Carpooling at Walnut Creek BART station at 8:00 AM. Return from Tract in early afternoon. Bring lunch, liquids. Directions: go out Highway 4 past Oakley to Cypress Road. Go about 1 mile on Cypress Road to the Jersey Island Road on the left. Travel Jersey Island Road across the bridge over Dutch Slough. About 3/4 mile farther on, bear right and go to the end of the road. RESERVATIONS NEEDED. 40 people. Call Sue Watson 254-4077 or Jane Helrich 837-8853. Wear long pants against blackberries!

For full schedule of hikes, see last month's Newsletter.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Due to rising costs, the Park Council can no longer afford sending the newsletter to members whose dues have not been paid. If you are one of those members, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. To renew send $5.00 to Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

The Park Council wishes to thank the Contra Costa Volunteer Bureau headed by Mrs. Cook for assistance in typing this Newsletter. Special thanks go to Mrs. Jean Lillard, typist.

Park Council News is published ten times a year by the Contra Costa Park Council at Walnut Creek, California (President: Manfred Lindner, Danville, 837-4444). Design and production by Patrick Whittle Associates, Walnut Creek (933-2295).

Editor: Patrick Whittle. Art Director: James W. Johnson. Associate Editor: Raydean Randlett. Editorial Assistant: Brian Murphy.

Contra Costa Park Council
P. O. Box 4322
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Mr. Eugene C. Lee
3805 Palo Alto Dr.
Lafayette, CA 94549

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Permit No. 231

VOL. 74 NO. 3 APRIL – MAY 1974

Park Council News

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES
MAY 28 1974
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PROFESSOR A. STARKER LEOPOLD TO SPEAK AT PARK COUNCIL ANNUAL DINNER — MAY TENTH

A. Starker Leopold, professor of Zoology at the University of California in Berkeley, and possibly the nation's foremost wildlife expert, will be the guest speaker at the annual dinner on May 10. An extremely popular lecturer, Dr. Leopold's heavy schedule of writing and speaking has in the past forced him to limit his engagements. This presentation to the Park Council will be accompanied by color slides.

PLACE: Michael Anthony's Restaurant
2040 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord
(Corner of Salvio Street)

DATE: Friday, May 10, 1974

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - No host cocktails
7:30 p.m. - Dinner

RESERVATIONS: $6.50 each (See details below)

SPEAKER: Professor A. Starker Leopold

TOPIC: "Wildlife Management in our National Parks"

A complete dinner will feature a choice of entree of beef stroganoff or deep fried prawns. To facilitate planning, please make reservations promptly by calling or mailing checks to Raydean Randlett:

645 Morninghome Road
Danville, Calif. 94526
Ph: 837-7553

Specify entree choice on your check with a "B" for beef stroganoff or "P" for prawns. Reservations made by phone are acceptable, but binding. Please mark your calendars and join us for a fascinating evening.

LAS TRAMPAS & TWO OTHER PARKS GET BIG ACREAGE BOOST

Acting, in one case, to beat a deadline only 24 hours away, EBRPD Directors voted on March 19 to expand Las Trampas, Wildcat Canyon, and Shadow Cliffs Regional parklands by 1540 acres at a cost of $1,632,651. Loud applause followed their decision.

The Board's action launched Phase I of EBRPD's 1974-75 land acquisition program, highlighted by the possible acquisition of the home in which Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner O'Neill and his Oakland-born actress wife, Carlotta Monterey, lived for seven years. It is listed in the National Historic Register.

Richard C. Trudeau, EBRPD General Manager, observed that other acquisitions "are pending a field trip by the Directors and the success of continuing negotiations." He added that in the cases of Las Trampas and Wildcat Canyon, prompt action by EBRPD literally snatched the choice acreage away from developers and preserved it for parkland purposes.

The Directors took an 18 month option on "Tao House", the O'Neill home, along with 14 acres of surrounding land.

"This acquisition is the crowning jewel of Las Trampas park," Park Council President Manny Lindner remarked. "I'm in a state of euphoria. It's a great day for the San Ramon Valley. The area to be acquired rises to high elevations but has lots of flat land, which makes it suitable for use by persons of varying physical abilities."

"It's a day in history," Mrs. Basil Winslow, Orinda, observed. "We're all behind you and we thank you."

"This is the most beautiful area of Las Trampas," Al Burton, founder and past president of the Park Council, declared. "The Park District staff work was beautiful."

Mark Harris, member of the Board of Directors of the San Ramon Valley Chamber of Commerce, lauded

the acquisition and cited the importance of preserving the O'Neill home. "We intend," he said, "to stage a Eugene O'Neill festival late this summer and we support you in what you are doing."

"Tao House must live on to perpetuate the memory of Eugene O'Neill and his contribution to American letters, the significance of which you well know and which has been widely recognized by its declaration as a U.S. Landmark and its placement on the National Register of Historic Places," Mrs. Sally Ewing, Chairman of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Association, declared.

The purchase price will be $225,000 if the option is exercised on or before March 31, 1975; thereafter, the price would escalate to $235,000.

The option, Trudeau explained, "will allow other groups to work with us on private funding as well as to firm up arrangements for maintenance and operation of the home. Here, we are acting as a conduit, largely, and this is a move which will be cheered by those groups which have worked so long to try to save the O'Neill home. It is anticipated that some federal and/or state funds will be available if the initial matching money can be obtained from private sources."

These are the parkland acreages and acquisition costs which the Board approved as a "package":

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL WILDERNESS - One thousand prime acres in the "Corduroy Hills" on the eastern slope of Las Trampas Ridge above Danville and Alamo at a cost of $750,000. The property, owned by Mrs. Charlotte Miller Gerdes of Piedmont, has a three-mile common boundary with existing Las Trampas park and will expand the EBRPD holdings to 2561 acres.

WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK - A total of 475 acres in seven parcels costing $814,151. These acquisitions will round out the park to 1886 acres and "remove the threat of alternate land use and intrusions..." Some of the acreage is on the western edge of the canyon where, by virtue of geographical location and topography, values are higher.

SHADOW CLIFFS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA - Sixty-five acres on the south side expanding the size of the park to 207 acres. The purchase price is $68,500.

With the latest acquisitions, EBRPD has acquired a total of 2977 acres of new parklands since October, 1972, at a cost of $8,115,987, including Pt. Pinole Regional Park with its 3 1/2 miles of bay shoreline.

Negotiators in the substantial acquisitions were the Park Council's former president Hulet C. Hornbeck, who is EBRPD Chief of Land and Water Acquisition and Management, Attorney John D. Rogers, and Lafayette Realtor Maynard Munger, who is active in the Sierra Club. Appraisers included Donald Ashley, Hayward, and Robert Foley, Walnut Creek.

(Congratulations to all concerned, including the Park Council and the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Association. Members of both organizations have worked hard over the years toward this happy day. --Editor)

BAY POLICIES AND THE BAY PLAN

Save San Francisco Bay Association announces that four public forums are scheduled by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to give opportunities for widespread consideration of possible changes in the Bay Plan.

According to the announcement: Only one of the current BCDC staff and a few of the 27 commissioners participated during the three-year period in which many technical studies and a great deal of public testimony resulted in the present Bay Plan and the law. These policies have guided the Commissioners as they deny or permit Bay fills and shoreline developments. They are now to be re-evaluated.

Some developers and public officials would like to weaken the law to allow on Bay fill such lucrative uses as expensive condominiums or offices. Other citizens want to take out of the Bay Plan the approval of a tanker terminal. Should water-related industry be permitted in or at the edge of a marsh? Local citizens will have a chance to renew their knowledge of the Bay Plan in their area and talk about what might be changed or should be re-emphasized.

The massive public concern for the Bay which resulted in the 1969 regulatory legislation is just history to the current commissioners and staff members. So this April it is important that it become visible again. Alert your family, friends, and neighbors to the date below. No one is too old or too young to value the Bay.

Oakland — Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
Hall of Justice, Vernon Auditorium
455 7th St. (corner of 7th and Bdwy.)

EBMUD SAVES ENERGY

Impressive cuts in all types of energy consumption have been achieved by EBMUD, according to General Manager John S. Harnett. He said a recently completed survey showed that the level of electrical consumption has been reduced by 12 percent in operating facilities, such as filter plants and pumping plants. In 13 support facilities, such as offices, the reduction was 19 percent, compared to the same period last year. He pointed out that 1.5 million kilowatt hours have been conserved by EBMUD between November and March and noted that "this amount of power is enough to take care of the electrical needs of 2300 East Bay homes for one month."

Natural gas consumption, used primarily in heating, showed an even greater decrease, Harnett reported. He said that gas consumption in the 13 support installations dropped 29 percent below levels for the same period a year ago.

Gasoline usage has gone down 10 percent, and Harnett said the utility district is shooting for an additional 10 percent drop in coming weeks.

"When we started this campaign, we didn't think we could reduce power consumption by more than five or six percent," Harnett commented. "While recent favorable weather has reduced pumping and heating needs, we are still very pleased to have exceeded our expectations by such a healthy margin."

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH - DR. MARY BOWERMAN

by Peg Kovar, Vice Mayor, City of Walnut Creek

Many individuals deserve credit for the public interest generated by the efforts to "Save Mount Diablo". Hundreds of people have added to the effort and hopefully thousands will join them. However, all who are aware and a part of the original effort would agree that, if and when, Mount Diablo is indeed saved, one person is most responsible for this success, and that is Dr. Mary Leo Bowerman of Lafayette.

Many of us have spent considerable time attempting to save Mount Diablo. But Mary Leo has devoted her life to this project since she first visited Mt. Diablo in June, 1930 -- forty four years ago! At that time she was a senior at the University of California, Berkeley. The summit of Mount Diablo was not yet a State Park and there was a $1.50 toll fee to use the road. Mary Leo wanted to write a paper and needed to make several trips. She requested and received permission to spend time on the mountain without paying. That was the first of what easily became thousands of requests that she has made regarding Mount Diablo!

Mary Leo later earned her Ph.D. in Botany in 1936. In 1944 she published the definitive work "The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California." Since then she has taught, not only classes, but her friends -- more than a generation of Californians -- about the importance of preserving the mountain. She has argued, charmed, cajoled and persistently kept after us, citizens and public officials at all levels, to protect the mountain. In 1971 she and Art Bonwell formed "Save Mount Diablo", a coalition of groups and individuals committed to the expansion of the State Park.

"April on the Mountain" is designed to bring not only a renewed interest in saving Mount Diablo, but also to support the 1974 State Park Bonds on the ballot June 4th. Essential acquisitions will be made to save parts of Shell Ridge, Lime Ridge and Mount Diablo if these bond issues pass.

Mary Leo's personal modesty is as enormous as her contribution to our mountain. She never wishes to take the credit due her. But I believe that it is good for us to see what one individual can do. Mary Leo Bowerman started a task which all of us must work to finish.

GOOD NEWS FOR BICYCLE FREAKS

Inlet grates that trap bicycle wheels are a big danger to people riding bikes. New-type grates now being installed are designed to prevent accidents from this cause, but many of the older grates remain as a hazard.

Contra Costa County has already modified the grates along the county bike lanes in the San Ramon Valley and Moraga to eliminate the danger. Now, the county is busy modifying grates throughout the Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon areas. Estimated cost is $11,000, according to an announcement of the work by Supervisors James A. Moriarty and Ed A. Linscheid.

(On behalf of the county's many bikers, thank you very much, Board of Supervisors. -- Editor.)

Walnut Creek city council has instructed its staff to discuss with Southern Pacific the feasibility of a bikeway proposal made by News editor Patrick Whittle to the city. His proposal is to pave a bike path along the railroad right-of-way from Rudgear Road to Ygnacio Valley Road. Its purpose would be to create a safe route for bikers to bypass a dangerous bottleneck where the county bikeway from San Ramon to Walnut Creek terminates in narrow South Main Street.

The desired 1.8-mile path is one segment in the 45-mile Pleasanton-Pt. Pinole bikeway first proposed by Pat in Jan. 1969 to the Calif. Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee and officially endorsed by that body. Subsequently, the entire bike route, which follows the railroad tracks, was incorporated into the EBRPD master plan and the CCC recreation plan, as well as plans of various cities along the way.

"So far," according to Pat, "not a single foot of path has been built under these plans. Walnut Creek's action could well be the catalyst we're waiting for."

TRAINS PROPOSED TO EASE ENERGY CRUNCH

Related to Pat Whittle's proposal for a bikeway along the SP tracks is his suggestion that passenger train service should now be restored on the rail segment between Livermore and Martinez after many years of freight only.

Pat's plan, in its simplest form, would upgrade the track for use by diesel railcars leased from the French or British railroad systems. Typical railcar DMUs (diesel multiple units) come in pairs. One car in each pair has a 400-500 hp diesel engine under the frame; the other car is an unpowered trailer. About 120 seated passengers can be accommodated in each two-car unit, and up to four units can be coupled to form a train carrying as many as 800 sitting and standing people.

Electric trolley cars running on a new track could be used instead. They offer the advantage of zero pollution and almost-silent operation.

Trains would carry commuters to Pleasant Hill BART station, which adjoins the SP track. The trains would also meet the need for local transportation to schools, stores, Little League and so forth. Las Trampas and Shadow Cliffs Regional Parks, as well as the proposed Ridgelands National Park, lie on or close to the route.

Pat would like the trains to accommodate bikes. People would be able to ride along the proposed bikeway alongside the tracks, then hop aboard the train for the return trip. Landscaping would turn the transportation corridor into an attractive linear park.

Total cost of the train service in Pat's opinion would be "close to zero." He explains, "Lump the savings realized by widening fewer roads, building fewer parking lots, and clustering development near the transit line. Subtract those savings from the cost of setting up and operating the trains. Then compare the results with MIT's statement that the true cost of operating an automobile is about $1 a mile. You'll be pleasantly surprised."

He adds that massive federal funds for mass

May 4 - Rescheduling of Franks Tract hike in the Delta. Reservations required. Call Sue Watson at 254-4077 or Jane Helrich at 687-8873

May 10- Annual Dinner at Michael Anthony's, Concord. See cover for details.

May 11- Sibley Regional Park round trip. This hike led by Sue and Bob Watson is moderately difficult, about 6 miles. Meet at Orinda BART Station at 9:00 a.m. or at Sibley Regional Park (Round Top) at 9:30. Bring lunch.

May 18- Las Trampas to Redwood Regional Park. Another strenuous de Fremery hike. For reservatinns call Don at 254-5243

June 1- Portions of Lafayette Ridge. Glenn Seaborg, leader, Meet 9:30 a.m. at Lafayette BART station. Bring lunch and liquids.

---

transit are becoming available for projects such as this.

Sen. John A. Nejedly, Sen. James R. Mills, and Assemblyman Dan Boatwright are among other proponents of similar transit systems using the SP tracks. If you favor the idea, be sure to let your legislators know.

STATE BICYCLE PATH PROPOSED

Sen. Nicholas C. Petris, D-Oakland, introduced a measure calling for $10 million to establish a coordinated network of facilities throughout the state linking already existing paths between cities and counties. Petris cited "an urgent need for legislation that would give more than token recreational recognition" to the need for bicycle paths.

SENATE PASSES WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

The State Senate passed legislation on March 19 to create wilderness areas in California. Authored by Senator John A. Nejedly (R-Walnut Creek), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, SB 1498 is patterned after the National Wilderness Preservation System enacted by the Congress in 1964.

The act sets aside as wilderness areas about 100,000 acres, mostly in Southern California.

"With certain specified exceptions, the act prohibits commercial enterprises and permanent roads in wilderness areas," Nejedly said. "In addition, except in emergencies, wilderness areas may not contain temporary roads, motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, and landing of aircraft; other forms of mechanical transport and structures are prohibited.

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO SAVE STANISLAUS RIVER

A last-ditch battle is being waged by conservationists to block construction of the huge New Melones dam on the Stanislaus River, one of the last white-water rivers in the West. For petitions, contact Chuck Papke, 4022 Fleming Ave., Richmond, CA 94804 (phone 234-2265) without delay.

VOTE JUNE 4th!

Conservationists will not want to miss the opportunity to support the park bond issues on the June 4th ballot. Never has it been a mistake to plan ahead for parks. Soaring land prices in Contra Costa County make it imperative that we act now.

Park Council News is published ten times a year by the Contra Costa Park Council at Walnut Creek, California (President: Manfred Lindner, Danville, 837-4444). Design and production by Patrick Whittle Associates, Walnut Creek (933-2295).

Editor: Patrick Whittle. Art Director: James W. Johnson. Associate Editor: Raydean Randlett. Editorial Assistant: Brian Murphy.

Contra Costa Park Council
P. O. Box 4322
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Permit No. 231

LAB, MR. EUGENE C.
3[illegible] PAL ALTO DR
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

GV430: S
C7pc.p

Vol. 74, No. 4, June 1974

Park Council News

JUN 3 1974
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PROPOSITION ONE: AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY *by Manny Lindner*

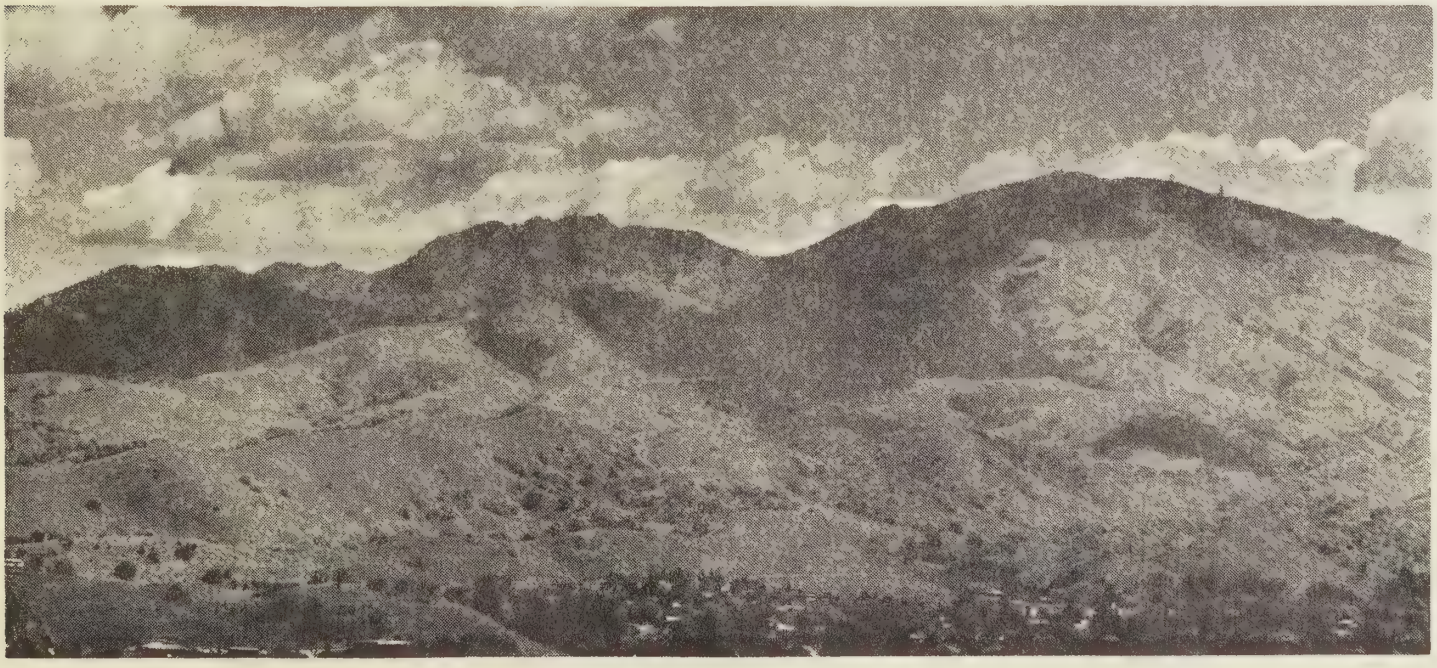
It is customary for the Park Council president to declare in this column his dedication to the principles of conservation, etc., etc. But this year there is no space for ho-hum phrases. For the remainder of this message I'm turning salesman, to sell you the bargain of our lives: Proposition One.

This all-important ballot measure authorizes a $250 million general obligation bond issue for acquisition and development of parks and open space in California.

And what, you may ask, can we expect for our financial sacrifice? First, let me break the figure down into more meaningful terms.

1) $90 million will be used by the state to acquire land for its own park system. Out of this sum, expansion of Mt. Diablo State Park is to receive a significant share; and this is in addition to the $1 million currently slated for acquisition of Mitchell Canyon.

2) $70 million will be used to develop state parks and state historical sites, and for wildlife conservation.



Mount Diablo looms majestically over the expanding edge of suburbia. Passage of Proposition One will go a long way toward saving the beauty of the mountain for posterity.

Together with the figure for Mt. Diablo in (1), it is the $2.4 million that interests us. How is it to be used? Due to the headlong development of the last two decades, much of the money will be used to improve parks and recreation in our urban areas. But let's see how this breaks down:

(A) West County - over $600,000 will be used for city-sponsored projects in Richmond, Pinole, San Pablo, El Cerrito and Kensington. Pinole hopes to acquire 235 acres of land on Sobrante Ridge.

(B) East County - nearly $300,000 for projects in Pittsburg, Antioch, Bethel Island and Brentwood.

(C) Central County - nearly $1.2 million for projects in Pleasant Hill, Martinez, Lafayette, Moraga, San Ramon Valley, Orinda, Walnut Creek, Concord, and Clayton. Of this, by far the biggest single slice - $600,000 - would go for a project sponsored by the last three mentioned cities for acquisition of nearly 500 acres of land on Lime Ridge.

Perhaps you have noticed that all of the above add up to only $2.1 million. The remaining $340,000 are to be reserved for county-wide use, including $185,000 for the John Marsh Home, $50,000 for EBMUD trail development, $6,000 for Wildcat Canyon trails, and $100,000 for East Bay Regional Park District to acquire lands in Morgan Territory for a regional park there. The last item is a matter of great pride to us, for the Park Council was the official sponsor of the Morgan Territory proposal. It was, in fact, one of the few citizen volunteer groups to so sponsor any project.

And what is the cost of this bond issue? At 5% interest it will cost each one of you just 85 cents a year for 20 years. Can we afford not to take this important step? I have little doubt that each of you will support Proposition One at the polls. But I hope that, in addition, you will talk to your friends and acquaintances; their votes will make the difference.

Anyone wishing further detailed information should contact Mr. Bill Horne, P.O. Box 5267, Walnut Creek 94596, or phone 934-4571.

EMINENT CONSERVATIONIST ADDRESSES PARK COUNCIL

Raydean Randlett

A large audience attended the Park Council annual dinner, May 10, to hear Dr. A. Starker Leopold fulfill his billing as "one of the nation's leading authorities on wildlife". Leopold, professor of Zoology at U.C. Berkely, spoke of his conservation work at the national level.

Slides of Yellowstone National Park portrayed the devastation wrought by over-population of the elk. Leopold emphasized the importance of considering entire eco-systems rather than single species when attempting to "preserve". Even the millions of acres which constitute Yellowstone are inadequate to protect migrating animals.

It was learned that the National Park policy is to maintain, as nearly as possible, an environment resembling that which the first white men saw when they came to America. Leopold's presentation was authoritative, fascinating, and educational.

NEW PARK COUNCIL BOARD ELECTED

Park Council members elected a new board of directors for the 1974-75 season at the May 10 annual dinner meeting. The new board is headed by Manny Lindner, serving his second term as president.

Officers

President - Manfred Lindner

Executive Vice President - Susan Watson

Regional Vice-Presidents - Bill Dickinson (East County), Joann Johnson (Central County), Minot Tripp (West County).

Treasurer - John Gravell

Recording Secretary - Meg Hemingway

Membership - Georgia Wood

Newsletter Editor - Pat Whittle

Board of Directors

Martin Adamson - Danville

Pete Archuleta - Antioch

Martin Aufhauser - Moraga

Robert Beratta - Danville

Al Burton - Pleasant Hill

Peter Gitzen - Concord

Ed Gustely - Moraga

Jane Helrich - Clayton

Charles Mathe - Alamo

William Michaud - Bethel Island

Raydean Randlett - Danville

Pat Whittle - Danville

A SALUTE TO GEORGE MCPHERSON

The Russian River News had a story a few months back about one of Guerneville's senior citizens who has dedicated his twilight years to keeping the streets of Guerneville clean. Seems he just got tired of all the trash in the streets and as there was no street-cleaning department he decided he'd be the department! He says, "Got myself a broom and rigged up an over-sized dustpan and just started sweepin'. Then Harry's Garage fixed me up with a pretty good pickup truck so I could haul stuff up to the dump". The garage keeps the truck in repair and the Guerneville Chamber of Commerce has been paying the insurance and license fee. But the muscle power and the dedication come from one George McPherson. We salute you, George! (Acknowledgments to Huscicon Twig.)

NEW ERA DAWNS FOR PARK DISTRICT

The opening of the $472,000 Tilden Regional Park Environmental Education Center later this year will lead EBRPD into "a new era of public service." And the goals and philosophies of the District and its Interpretive Department (naturalists) will gain "a new status with professionals from all over the continent".

That is the forecast of Christian Nelson, Interpretive Department Chief, in his annual report for 1973 covering the activities of 25 employees in four parks.

Results of important shark research at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda, undertaken with the aid of Piedmont Sea Scouts, will be published in scientific journals and "will comprise a significant contribution to the scientific community.

"As this material is published...EBRPD will be recognized for its concern and efforts which all began in 1967 when alarmed citizens noticed dead and dying sharks on the beaches of Alameda."

The report also tells of an innovative "do-it-yourself" vegetable garden pilot program for teenagers at Coyote Hills Regional Park which, if feasible, may be expanded into family projects next year.

Others contributing to the report besides Nelson were Ronald A. Russo, Tilden Resident Naturalist; Donald R. Wilson, Chief Preparator at Robert Crown; Dick Angel, Resident Naturalist at Sunol Valley Regional Wilderness; and Wallace Cromwell, Resident Naturalsit at Coyote Hills Regional Park.

Nelson sees the Environmental Education Center as the focus for such new and future programs as career opportunities for high school students; ecology training for city and county engineers to assist them in preparing the now-required Environmental Impact Statements; and the possible acquisition of environmental awareness training grants.

"What," Nelson asked rhetorically, "will be the long-term effects on our urban societies of the continuing rapid disappearance of open space, park and recreational resources which have proven so necessary to good mental health?" He adds, "What I am trying to say here is that it is becoming more and more important that naturalists and all interpreters give more direction and emphasis to the human-related aspects of their work. Our very survival could depend on it."

DECISION ON LOCAL PARK, OPEN SPACE ISSUES JUNE FOURTH

Several local elections for parks and open space will be held on June 4 in addition to the critically important Proposition One vote. These local issues include the Walnut Creek Open Space Bond election, which will decide whether 1763 acres of ridgeland, 49 acres of land bank for future parks, and enough land to complete an extensive trail system will be acquired in perpetuity for enjoyment by citizens of that fast-growing city.

San Ramon Valley voters will decide whether they want a local park system by voting for or against Proposition E.

These and similar propositions accord with the Park Council's philosphy. The cost per household tends to be very little, yet the benefits for us and future generations would be immense.

MORE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR BIKEWAYS

According to the Bicycle Institute of America, the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration has announced the release of new guidelines authorizing for the first time expenditure of federal-aid highway funds for the construction of bikeways and pedestrian walkways outside the normal highway right-of-way along federal-aid highways.

The new program, established under the Federal-aid Highway Act of 1973, provides for the use of any federal aid highway apportionment, except the Interstate, for construction of cyclist and pedestrian facilities on a 70/30 matching funds basis.

Although some federal funds had previously been utilized for bikeways and pedestrian facilities, until now such construction was limited, and had to be within the normal highway right-of-way. The construction also had to be considered as an incidental feature of a larger highway program constructed primarily for automobiles.

NEJEDLY INTRODUCES SUISUN MARSH PRESERVATION ACT

Senator John A. Nejedly, (R-Walnut Creek), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, has introduced SB 1981, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, to ensure prompt action to protect the marsh from residential, commercial, and industrial development.

The Suisun Marsh consists of approximately 55,000 acres of marsh land and 30,000 acres of bays and sloughs in Solano County. Nejedly noted that the Marsh comprises almost 10% of the remaining natural wetlands in California and plays an important role in providing wintering habitat for waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway.

The bill directs the Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with appropriate local, regional, state and federal governmental agencies, educational institutions, civic and public interest organizations and private organizations and individuals, to prepare a plan to be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 1976. "The plan is to be based upon detailed studies of all the factors that significantly affect the marsh and is to be designed to preserve the integrity and assure continued wildlife use of the marsh", Nejedly stated.

During the plan development period, the bill requires that certain proposed developments in the marsh be contingent upon the approval of the Secretary of the Resources Agency, in addition to the necessary approvals which may be required from local agencies.

For coming events, see next news item on hikes.

THE HIKING CORNER *by Susan Watson*

Time to say goodbye to the Spring hiking season and think of next Fall's hikes. We had quite a year of hiking - when it wasn't raining, flooding, snowing, or otherwise washing us out.

We are grateful to our leaders who got everyone home safely and the landowners who opened their lands to us for several hikes. We also thank the East Bay Regional Park District and Mt. Diablo State Park personnel who helped with our planning.

Let the Hiking Column know this summer of your ideas and suggestions for hikes for next year - areas that you would expecially like to see included in the planning. Tell us what you like - leaders, hikes, weather, distance (long or short), numbers of participants. Send on unfavorable criticism, too, if you want; if your Hiking Director can roll with the weather this year, she can roll with the punches, too.

We are going to try to have a series of half-day hikes next year for those of us who are short of time or short of wind. For those hikers who like the other end of the scale, Don de Fremery is planning a 20 miler in the Fall! Let us know if you want to lead a hike in your favorite area - Hiking Column, Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Goodbye and good hiking!

Sun., June 16 - Farewell to Spring, Briones Reservoir Loop. Fifteen miles. Reservations required by June 13. Don de Fremery will lead this gentle, long walk around the lovely lake. Meet 8:30 a.m. at EBMUD parking lot at Bear Creek Road and Happy Valley Road. Call Don at 254-5243 for reservations. Lunch, liquids, and a happy smile.

Sat., July 21 - Workday on Briones Trails. If you want to donate one day this summer to help with making our trails better and safer, now is the time to lend a hand. Call Don de Fremery for information at 254-5243.

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR BIKE FREAKS

If you're looking for a new and safe place to ride your bicycle, why the 3 3/4-mile Pleasanton-Livermore bike and hiking trail that serves EBRPD's Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area is the place for you.

Eight to ten feet wide and built by the Alameda County Public Works Department at a cost of $66,115, the asphalt-topped trail soon enters its second year of service. "Traffic counts" were taken during the July 4 holiday season last year, and 340 bicycles were counted on July 1.

Built primarily to serve the 207-acre water-oriented park, the scenic trail runs from First Street and Arroyo del Valle in Pleasanton to Livermore's Murdell Lane. The latter city has extended the trail within its limits.

Park Council News is published ten times a year by the Contra Costa Park Council at Walnut Creek, California (President: Manfred Lindner, Danville, 837-4444). Design and production by Patrick Whittle Associates, Walnut Creek (933-2295).

Editor: Patrick Whittle. Art Director: James W. Johnson. Associate Editor: Raydean Randlett. Editorial Assistant: Brian Murphy.

Contra Costa Park Council
P. O. Box 4322
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Permit No. 231

LEE, MR. EUGENE C.
3805 PALO ALTO DR
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

V430.N
27pc.p

VOL. 74 No. 5 September, 1974

Park Council News

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY
SEP 4 1974
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

VITALLY IMPORTANT PARK COUNCIL MEETING

Fall is approaching, and with it the return of monthly Contra Costa Park Council meetings. The or to be held September 19 at 8:00 p.m. is of major importance for Park Council members. The meeting will take place in the offices of Patrick Whittle Associates, 1700 North Broadway, Suite 207, Walnut Creek (at North Broadway and Civic Drive, across the street from the civic center).

Those who take an active and vocal part in Park Council affairs will have a chance to discuss, and perhaps even determine, the future of the organization.

It is the opinion of some of the long standing members that the Park Council has achieved the goals for which it was founded. Many of the old timers recall the original battles and the winning of the election to annex to EBRPD, the addition of Briones, Las Trampas, and Pt. Pinole to the EBRPD system, and many other victories. These people feel that most of the major objectives have been reached, and that now the Council's work is overlapping with other groups; such as, Sierra Club, People for Open Space, Friends of Mt. Diablo, and EBRPD itself.

If you have some thoughts about the continuation or dissolution of the Park Council, or have ideas on goals which the board has not considered, come to the meeting or drop Susan Watson a line. We need to know where you all stand.

HIKING CORNER

Susan Watson

Another hiking season for the Contra Costa Park Council is upon us - so don't hang up those hiking boots after summer's use. Dust 'em off and join us on walks to see the great natural wealth of our area - and, incidentally, improve your own health as well.

Remember that sturdy, comfortable shoes make a happy hiker. A hat wards off the elements, and a bottle of water (or ice tea mix) on longer walks for that "pause that refreshes" is a good idea. Ditto for trail "munchies". Always bring lunch and liquids when the instructions call for them - sharing may be caring but is also wearing!

Saturday, Sept. 28 — Briones Peaks. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Briones Regional Park main parking lot off Bear Creek Road. Hulet Hornbeck will lead this ten mile, 1000 foot ascent from the parking lot to Lafayette Ridge, past the old Alhambra water caves, across the Briones Peaks to the newly acquired northern area of Briones, the three lakes, and return via Abrigo Valley. Bring lunch and liquids.

Saturday, Oct. 12 — San Pablo Reservoir. Don de Fremery will lead this distance walkers delight (20 miles but mostly level) around San Pablo Reservoir. Bring lunch and liquids. Call Don for details at 254-5243.

The Park Council is cooperating with the Sierra Club Regional Group in organizing three novice hikes. These staged hikes are for BEGINNERS ONLY. Plan to attend all three to get into good condition. Limited to 30 people. Call Neil Southwick for reservations, details, and times: 939-7334.

Saturday, Sept. 7 — Lafayette Reservoir. Neil Southwick will lead this three mile, level hike around the shoreline of the reservoir. Bring lunch and liquids for a picnic and a discussion on the "hows of hiking" after the hike.

See stories.

Saturday, Sept. 21 — Lafayette Reservoir. Bob and Sue Watson will lead this five mile hike on the reservoir rim trail. This walk includes several 500 foot ascents. Bring lunch and liquids for after the hike.

Saturday, Oct. 5 — Redwood Regional Park. Don de Fremery will lead this eight mile ramble through wooded Redwood. This hike involves some climbing, so be prepared. After the hike there will be graduation. Now you are ready for anything! Bring lunch and liquids.

WORK PARTY

Don de Fremery asks for loving hands as well as strong backs for work on the beautiful Huckleberry-Trail in the Regional Park District's first botanic preserve. Saturday, September 14 is the day. Call Don for details: 254-5243.

DINING IN THE CAVES?

Will, in future years, picnickers in the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve shun the sun and, instead, munch their fried chicken, potato salad, corn-on-the-cob and watermelon in some subterranean mine setting hundreds of feet underground?

This "picnic-in-the-grotto" ideas was touched upon by Lew Crutcher, Chief of Plans, Design and Construction for the East Bay Regional Park District, as fascinated Directors listened to a progress report covering four parks.

Crutcher also mentioned the idea of an underground museum, presumably dealing with mining memorabilia.

Picnicker-historians might be enchanted by the novel idea, envisioning some lunchtime reverie in the bowels of the earth while munching on a drumstick as they turned the clock back to imagine a Welsh coal miner of a century ago, a figurative elbow's length away, ingesting his pasties (correct) or mutton stew. The cave like picnic ground could be illuminated by miners' acetylene lamps to carry out the theme.

In point of historical fact, this might be stretching a point since the projected basement buffets are planned for the sand rather than the coal mines section of the park.

But no matter. Crutcher is an innovative man who thrives on new ideas which may revolutionize the park, recreation and picnic industry.

This issue of Park Council News is skimpy. Vacations and summer months in general have a way of distracting people from chores such as writing items for newsletters. Next month's News should be back to its normal size. Look for a report of the critically important September 19 board meeting.

Park Council News is published ten times a year by the Contra Costa Park Council at Walnut Creek, California (President: Manfred Lindner, Danville, 837-4444). Design and production by Patrick Whittle Associates, Walnut Creek (933-2295).

Editor: Patrick Whittle. Art Director: James W. Johnson. Associate Editor: Raydean Randlett. Editorial Assistant: Brian Murphy.

Contra Costa Park Council
P. O. Box 4322
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Permit No. 231

LEE, MR. EUGENE C.
3805 PALO ALTO DR
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

HIST
GV
430:S
C7pc.p

v.74:1-5
Jan/Feb-Sep
1974
IGSL

University of California, Berkeley
Institute of Governmental Studies
Library

Park Council news : newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council.

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY
109 PHILOSOPHY HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CA 94720

HIST
GV
430:5
C7pc:p
v. 74:1-5
(Jan/Feb-Sep 1974)

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY
109 PHILOSOPHY HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CA 94720